

counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Items B3 and B4 both cite priority to corresponding U.S. applications. U.S. Serial No. 951,094, now U.S. Patent No. 5,849,830, corresponds to EP 0 909 787 (IDS item B3 reference), and U.S. Serial No. 922,128 corresponds to EP 0 899 301 (IDS item B4 reference). U.S. Patent No. 5,849,830 is listed on the enclosed Form 1449 as item B1.

Applicants only became aware of item B1 as a direct and immediate result of the citation of the equivalent European application (item B3) in a communication from a foreign patent office not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement. Therefore, the certification of item B3 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) should extend to item B1 as well. In the alternative, if certification of item B1 is not acceptable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1), certification of item B1 should be allowed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2), because item B1 was not itself cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, item B1 was not known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

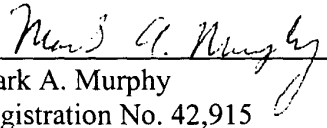
Consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-noted application are respectfully requested.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 05015.0372U3
SERIAL NO. 09/630,517

No fee is believed due pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c); however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

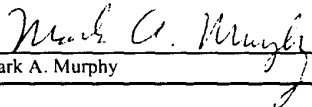


Mark A. Murphy
Registration No. 42,915

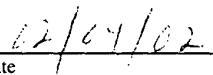
Suite 1200, The Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1811
404/688-0770

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referenced herein as being enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date shown below.



Mark A. Murphy



Date